In March 2020, the City of Moscow activated its Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Plan to help navigate the initial onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. Governor Little’s March 25, Statewide Stay-At-Home order was later extended through April, then transitioned to the Idaho Rebounds Plan as of May 1. The Idaho Rebounds Plan has guided the State through successive stages to the current stage-4. On June 15, Governor Little announced that Idaho would remain in stage-4 as defined by the plan, and transitioned COVID-19 response to regional or local jurisdictions, including Health Districts and Mayors.

City of Moscow officials have continuously monitored COVID-19 cases and potential exposure in Moscow. Officials have worked steadily to continue to prepare and plan for various possibilities of the changes in exposure and potential for community spread of COVID-19. The week of June 29, we saw the highest increases in cases since the outbreak began. Similar to Moscow City officials’ actions in early March in response to the pandemic, action is again being taken at the local level to support the community’s health and safety. Due to significant increases in COVID-19 cases and escalating exposure concerns, Moscow Mayor Bill Lambert issued Public Health Emergency Order No. 20-03, requiring face coverings and six-foot social/physical distancing in Moscow, Idaho, effective July 2, 2020.

The responsibility of enacting a Public Health Emergency Order falls to the Mayor, by the authority vested in that position by Idaho Code and Moscow City Code Title 1-11-05(B), and the common-law authority to protect the public in an emergency, to encourage and enforce appropriate orders. Public Health Emergency Order 20-03 requires the following:

• Every person in the city of Moscow must wear a face covering that covers their nose and mouth when in any indoor or outdoor public setting where the 6-foot physical distancing is not able to be maintained with non-household members, except as follows:
  • This Order does not apply to children under 5 years old, however, with the assistance and close supervision of an adult the City strongly recommends children wear face coverings when in public spaces where the 6-foot physical distancing cannot be maintained;
  • This Order does not apply to persons with a medical condition, mental health condition, or disability that prevents wearing a face covering;
  • This Order does not apply to those who are incarcerated;
  • Individuals may remove their face covering when in a public setting under the following circumstances:
    • While at a restaurant, at an establishment or location that allows or offers food or beverage service, while they are eating or drinking, provided that they are able to maintain a distance of at least 6-feet from other guests or other non-household members;
    • When any party to a communication is deaf or hard-of-hearing and not wearing a face covering is essential to communication;
    • While obtaining a health or personal service that requires temporary removal of the face covering;
    • When necessary to confirm a person’s identity; and
    • When local, state or federal law prohibits wearing a face covering or requires the removal of a face covering.
• Every person in the city of Moscow, when in places that are open to the public, shall maintain 6-foot physical distancing from a non-household member, whenever possible.
• Definitions.
  • “Household Members” are defined as people who reside in the same residence regardless of familial relation and people who enter a residence to provide a caretaking function.
  • “Public Setting” is defined as any place that is open to the public.
• If this Order and any action of any other agency or official are in conflict, the more protective and most restrictive requirement must be followed, unless prohibited by a state or federal statute or rule.
• Exemptions. Nothing in this order shall constrain the duties and powers of the City, the Mayor, or other governmental agencies.
• Penalty. In accordance with Moscow City Code Section 1-11-10, any person who knowingly violates the provisions of this order may be charged with a misdemeanor. The maximum penalties for this offense are up to 6 months in the county jail and a $1,000 fine.
• For more information, please visit the City’s website at www.ci.moscow.id.us.